

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Mitsuhiro Kurano Examiner: Daniel L. Robinson  
Ser. No.: 10/597,953 Art Group: 3742  
Filed: 14 August 2006 Conf. No.: 8391  
Title: DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING  
THE SAME  
Date: 15 April 2010

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST  
FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

In response to the Office Action transmitted on 15 October 2009, please amend the application as follows:

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION - none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS – are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS - none.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS begin on page 5.